

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016, IN THE TOWN HALL, AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: Bryan Chnowski, John Mangold, Rob Blick, home; Rob Blick work; Cassie Dunn, Ed Butt, Renee J. Santiago. Sue Slater, (liaison B/S to P & R).
D. DiPinto, Director; Elaine Rajcula, Secretary.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting August 24, 2016 approved as revised upon a motion made by J. Mangold, seconded by R. Santiago. Passed. Tony Tomaino not present.

Recreation Supervisor's Report – Mary Knox – The Fall Program Guide is at print as well as posted on our website. The Program Guide will be in resident's mail boxes early next week. Fall programs registration will begin Tuesday, September 27, although a few programs already advertised begins this weekend. The 25th Annual "Well Adjusted LLC" 5 K Halloween Run and Kids K Fun Run on Sunday, October 30. She asks for volunteers to help on Race Day with various duties between 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. even if only part of the time. Let D. DiPinto or M. Knox know if you can help.

Parks Supervisor's Report – July/August/September - Chris Rabuse – Said report was reviewed by the Commission and discussed at length. Work completed or in progress: Fall cleanups have begun at all sites. Because of the extremely dry weather pattern it is very difficult to keep up on watering the various planting areas; equipment and truck maintenance as needed. Deep clean and sweep of back synthetic High School field; grooming and painting of High School synthetic fields for Fall sports; All fields need a top dressing of crumb rubber. Both synthetic field at BHS are starting to show there ages. For now, they try to keep it top dressed with crumb rubber until it can be addressed. Grass sports fields are under much stress due to dry conditions along with constant use throughout the summer. We have completed additional aeration /over seeding earlier than usual because of a dry September. Beach grooming in season is typically done three times a week. We will continue to improve the grass areas throughout the park. Weekly mowing of all turf areas/sports fields at least twice weekly to help induce turf density. Mowing of Happy Landing and Gurski Trail areas bi-monthly/weekly in heavy growth periods. Brush Hogging of school rough areas and rough mowing trail areas in William's and Still River Greenway. Baseball/Softball grooming three times per week. In Fall, tapers off to two times per week. Most fields have edging, clay and resoding issues still to be addressed. Some more extensive work is needed at Whisconier baseball field, but will be addressed within the next few weeks. Start to prepare Gurski for Farmfest – mowing/ trimming. A little extra work in preparation for the event. Pruning of shrubs, trees, at all Town sites. With the K-8 pesticides ban weeds and maintenance is getting more intense at all the schools includes parking lot trimming, clean-ups; pruning all shrubs, trees, condensing and altering plant beds as needed, mulching main beds, adding plants, edging and adding playground mulch to most playground areas, inspect playground areas and do needed repairs. Lining and painting all soccer fields in Town. Move goals to desired locations. Irrigation repairs to Town Hall storage tanks and Gray's Bridge Bridge/PTak Soccer field. Adjust irrigation schedules at various fields as weather and even conditions change. Weed spraying at all Town sites/plant beds. Still river Greenway lawn maintenance of both sides that were completed. Made and put out new sandbags for all soccer fields in Town. Edged and mulched new layer of certified playground mulch under all play elements. Fertilized all sports fields monthly at a half rate during growing season. Core aerate and over seed all

Town Hall sports fields. Spruce up/plant additions and mulching of BOBCAT sign on High School stadium field. Both need to have complete renovation soon.

Future Work – Equipment maintenance, garbage pickup weekly and at needed sport/Fall events, Baseball/Softball fields grooming, Snow preparations, Baseball/Softball field repairs, sports field aerification/over seeding/fertilizing, wood preservative application to Band Shell/picnic benches and various bleacher sites, Fall trail maintenance, weekly/bi-weekly mowing of all turf area, synthetic field grooming, painting and repairs as needed, playground repairs,/in sections, baseball field renovation on front field at Whisconier school, Fall bulb plantings at various spots along Greenway, an on-going program adding to various spots as Trail is finished and matures.

Sub-Committee Reports

Communications/community outreach/advocacy – Fall Brochure at printer. One to two posts are put on Facebook per week.

Old Business

Greenway update – D. DiPinto –The northern approach to the bridge is completed. Work is being done on the south approach. Money approved will likely hold up even with 3 month delay. Hopefully finished by Halloween.

New Business

Greenway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – D. DiPinto - J. Grudzinsky will spearhead the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Hopefully the Ribbon Cutting will be around the time of the 5K Race. He will work with her as will the Commission. C. Dunn thought it should be on its own, not with another event.

Cadigan Tennis Courts Lighting Policy – D. DiPinto – Much discussion was held concerning the lights. D. DiPinto stated that with Football going five nights a week, in August each year, parking is very tight. Basketball players seem to be dominating the courts until after dark including what appear to be a group of non-residents. Blick stated when football is on, siblings of football players want to use the courts but cannot because of the same group playing on the courts most nights. With some many people and cars in the park space is at a premium and we have lots of activity in a relatively small area.

In the short term the Director turned off all court lights and hired a policeman to monitor the area each night between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. With no lights over the past several weeks we have observed a younger basketball crowd with more residents.

R. Blick asked if D. DiPinto try not to turn on the lights until November 1st. The reasonable age group kids have lights on 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Older people later. C. Dunn stated it has to be enforced. R. Blick wants adults to pay and kids to not pay. R. Santiago said if problems arise with the parking area the police should be called. J. Mangold suggested turning off lights at 8:00 p.m.

Safety is the main concern. Supervision should be phased out. D. DiPinto asked the Commission what we should be doing. E. Butt suggested leaving lights on. If there are issues, turn them off. No one has heard legitimate complaints. R. Blick asked the Commission who thinks leaving the lights on until 8:00 p.m. reasonable. E. Butt would support this. C. Dunn stated it is a safety issue. Leaving lights on is a safety issue with kids running around. R. Blick made a motion to extend the closing of the lights to 8:30 p.m. for a couple of weeks, then wait a week to the first week of October. Tom Murphy, from the audience, has heard 4 to 5 complaints from people who work during the day and participate in the Over 35 League in the evenings.

Adjournment – A motion was made by J. Mangold to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by R. Santiago. Passed.

The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

If you cannot attend this meeting please call the Parks & recreation Department at 203- 775-7321.